

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T USUN 0596

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SEC DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL,XF,UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: UN CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR FURTHER UNEF

WITHDRAWAL

1. MAJOR GENERAL KOHO, MILITARY ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, RECENTLY TOLD A US MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE OFFICER THAT THE SECRETARIAT IS NOW CONDUCTING UNEF CONTINGENCY PLANNING. THIS PLANNING ENVISAGES, AS ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI TO A LINE RUNNING ROUGHLY FROM MISFAQ ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST, WEST OF BIR GIFGAFA, THEN SOUTH TO ABU ZENIMA ON THE GULF OF SUEZ. TWO CONTINGENCIES ARE BEING EXAMINED IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH A LINE: ONE IN WHICH THE ISRAELIS WOULD RETAIN THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES, AND ONE IN WHICH THE PASSES WOULD PASS TO EGYPTIAN CONTROL. EITHER OF THESE TWO CONTINGENCIES WOULD LENGTHEN THE 170-KM LINE MANNED BY UNEF TO APPROXIMATELY 230 KM.

2. THE ADDITIONAL 60 KM WOULD REQUIRE, IN THE SECRETARIAT'S VIEW, AUGMENTATION OF CURRENT UNEF STRENGTH BY AT LEAST ONE RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION. SECRETARIAT IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INVITING AUSTRALIANS TO PROVIDE CONTINGENT, WITH PHILIPPINES THE SECOND CHOICE. (YUGOSLAVIA WAS AT ONE TIME CONSIDERED BYT-ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT'S JONAH -HAS BEEN VITTUALLY ELIMINATED BECAUSE OF ITS PRESUMED UNACCEPT-IBILITY TO ISREAL). FACTORS LEADING TO PREFERENCE FOR

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AUSTRALIA AND PHILIPPINES ARE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS,

EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY, AND PROBABLE WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE NATIONAL CONTINGENTS WITH LITTLE HOPE OF PROMPT REMUNERATION BY UN. IF MORE TROOPS ARE NEEDED, UN'S THOUGH WOULD BE TO ASK SWEDES AND/OR FINNS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PRESENT CONTINGENTS.

3. SECRETARIAT'S CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAS GENERATED CONCERN OVER ABSENCE OF LARGE-SCALE MAPS OF AREA IF NEW DISENGAGEMENT OCCURS. ISRAEL HAS PRODUCED HIGHLY ACCURATE MAPS OF THE DESIRED SCALE COVERING THE AREA IN QUESTION, BUT WILL NOT RELEASE THEM TO THE UN AT THE PRESENT TIME BECAUSE OF UNDERSTANDABLE SECURITY REASONS. IF DISENGAGEMENT ACHIEVED, STATE AND DEFENSE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER REQUESTING MAPS OF AREA FOR UN AS WAS DONE IN CASE OF UNDOF.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENSE AND OSD/ISA.

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